

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 15-17, 20, 22, 24-26, 31 and 33 are amended. By this Amendment, no claims are added or cancelled. Claims 15, 24 and 33 are the independent claims. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's acknowledgement that certified copies of all priority documents have been received by the U.S.P.T.O.

Applicants also respectfully note that the present action does not indicate that the drawings have been accepted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's next communication include an indication as to the acceptability of the filed drawings or as to any perceived deficiencies so that the Applicants may have a full and fair opportunity to submit appropriate amendments and/or corrections to the drawings.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 17, 20, 22-23, 26 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claims 17, 20, 22, 24, 26 and 31, as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection to claims 17, 20, 22-23, 26 and 31-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dawson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,229,506, hereinafter “Dawson”) in view of Kimura (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0080474, hereinafter “Kimura”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

The Examiner asserts that Dawson discloses “a first switching transistor” and “a first capacitor” and Kimura discloses “a second capacitor”, “a second switching transistor”, and “a third switching transistor” within the meaning of claim 15. For instance, referring to FIG. 22A of Kimura, the Examiner asserts that switch 2207 corresponds to the second switching transistor and switch 2216 corresponds to the third switching transistor. Therefore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Dawson with Kimura by “specifically providing a second switching transistor for connecting a second terminal of the second capacitor to the current output terminal of the driving transistor via a wire or a transistor and a third switching transistor for connecting the second terminal of the second capacitor to a predetermined voltage line for the purpose of countering degradation in the EL element and for precisely controlling current output of a transistor to improve the quality of the display.” See Office Action, page 4 (citing paragraph 157 of Kimura).

Applicants disagree and submit that Kimura does not disclose a second capacitor and a second and third switching transistor within the meaning of claim 15. None-the-less, to expedite prosecution and without conceding to the Examiner’s current position, Applicants have amended claim 15 to recite, *inter alia*, “wherein the second terminal of the second capacitor is connected to a node between the second and third switching transistors.” Applicants submit that Kimura does not disclose this feature. For example, as can be seen from FIG. 22A of Kimura, the switch 2216 (allegedly corresponding to the third switching transistor) and the switch 2207 (allegedly

corresponding to the second switching transistor) are connected in series on a single path, which is extended from the capacitor 2211, and not branched. In contrast, the second switching transistor and the third switching transistor of amended claim 15 are provided on two paths branched from the second terminal of the second capacitor (the one path is connected to the predetermined voltage line and the other path is connected to the current output terminal of the driving transistor). Therefore, the driving operation of Kimura is different from the present invention. For instance, the driving operation of the present invention demonstrates that the second terminal of the second capacitor is connected to the predetermined voltage line during the first period within the current writing period, and the second terminal is connected to the current output terminal of the driving transistor.

Therefore, Kimura cannot disclose “a second capacitor”, “a second switching transistor” and “a third switching transistor” within the meaning of amended claim 15. As seen from FIG. 22A, Kimura cannot disclose “wherein the second terminal of the second capacitor is connected to a node between the second and third switching transistor.” Accordingly, Kimura and Dawson, alone or in combination, fail to render amended claim 15 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Claim 24 and 33 have been amended to contain features similar to amended claim 15, are patentable for at least the same reasons stated above. Claims 16-23, 25-32 and 34, dependent on amended claims 24 and 33, are patentable for at least the same reasons stated above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection to claims 15-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of the pending claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

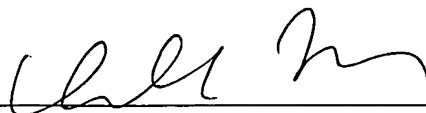
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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